

A. J. Cooke
Organist
from H.M.
PRESENTATIONS

ON MAY 21, 1866,

(WHITSUN-MONDAY.)

THE
ENGLISH WORKINGMEN'S BENEFIT SOCIETY.

The third anniversary of this excellent institution which, starting with four original projectors, now numbers some three hundred and fifty among its constituent membership, was celebrated on Monday, 21st of May, 1866, at half-past one p.m. The Firemen's Hall was crowded with people (members of the Society and friends interested in its working,) to witness the presentation of a stand of colours to the Society by Mrs. Stanley C. Bagg.

Mr. Bagg, the retiring President, introduced Mr. J. Nelder Isaacson, the President elect.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS.

Mrs. Bagg, with the simplicity and the kindness which so becomes her, and whose husband was the founder, and is still the honored friend of this Society, advanced, and in presenting the colors, so dear to the hearts of Englishmen, said:—

" Mr. President, and Members of the English Workingmen's Benefit Society :

Were I to consult only the strong personal feeling implanted by nature and fostered by my early education, I should shrink from the prominence to which the very great partiality of others has assigned me to-day; but sympathy with an Association in which my husband as its first presiding officer, has manifested so lively an interest ever

—since its organization, prompts me to accept the duty—the very pleasant duty in more than one respect—of presenting to you, in the name of the numerous donors, those beautiful Banners.

One, the cross of St. George, is the ancient ensign of Albion; the other is the national ensign of Great Britain—the meteor flag of England—as adopted by order of King James I., April 12, 1606, and as amended in 1801, after the accession of Erin to the dominion of the Crown, by the addition of the cross of St. Patrick, to the first 'Union Jack,' formed as you are well aware by the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew alone.

It is not my purpose to speak of the glory of *that* flag. Other speakers upon other occasions could more fitly dwell upon this point. It is enough for me to know that you have been deemed worthy to be the bearers of that standard. Nor do I doubt that, as loyal Englishmen, and members of a most commendable, beneficial association, the presence of these banners will be to you, as was the sacred heart of Bruce to the Crusaders in the Holy Land, an irrepressible incentive to duty—duty to your Sovereign the Queen—duty to the land of your adoption—duty to the suffering members of your Society.

In conclusion, let me congratulate you upon the extraordinary success of your Association. Nothing could more surely evidence the prudent forethought of our industrial classes than the formation of such an institution. I wish you most cordially and heartily, abundant success in life; and that while the society may be more than able to relieve every suffering applicant for its aid, few will require its assistance."

To which Mr. J. H. Isaacson, the President, replied:

"Mrs. Bagg, on behalf of the members of the English Workingmen's Benefit Society, I accept, with feelings of pride and gratification, the very beautiful and valuable flags you and other ladies, their fair countrywomen, have now presented to them.

I am satisfied, Madam, that I speak the sentiments of each individual member of the Society over which I have the honor to preside, when I assert, as I now do emphatically, that this gift so generously bestowed through so acceptable a channel, will ever be held in great estimation by the Society, and not the less so as being a momento, not

alone of the very valuable and continuous services of your husband to the Society since the hour of its origination up to the present, but also of this your gracious act to-day, in consenting to take so prominent a part on the present occasion. Allow me to say, madam, that your husband's useful connection with the Society as its first President has been fitly terminated by the generous act of his wife on the present interesting presentation. Your allusions to the history and glory of the Cross of St. George, and the national ensign of Britain, were peculiarly interesting and acceptable to us as Englishmen, and loyal and devoted subjects of our beloved Queen; and with the very intimate knowledge I possess of the character and feelings of the members of the English Workingmen's Society, I have no hesitation in saying that no act of theirs, when these banners are unfurled, will ever reflect discredit on that history or dim that glory in the slightest degree.

In conclusion, permit me to express the feeling of pleasure we all feel at witnessing and experiencing the interest you and at least a portion of our countrywomen have exhibited in our proceedings to-day and in the objects of our association, be assured that this interest will be an additional incentive to urge us on in our efforts to carry out the objects of our Society, viz., relief to the members of our Society in the hour of trouble and distress."

Mrs. Bagg (amid applause) was presented with a splendid bouquet of flowers, which she acknowledged in a very graceful manner.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the ladies for having followed the example of other Societies in lending their kind countenance and co-operation; also to Messrs. Wilson and Sherman for collecting subscriptions and assisting the ladies in their arduous undertakings.

Mr. J. H. Wilson thanked the meeting in a few well-timed remarks.

The procession next formed in order of march, headed by the band of the Chasseurs, followed by the ordinary members, the fife and drum corps of the Royals, honorary members and office-bearers.

The procession moved along Craig and St. Lawrence Main and Sherbrooke streets, to the residence of Mr. Bagg, where a right hearty and cheerful good welcome was accorded to the members, the band of the Royals playing "Fine Old English Gentleman." After a social

re union of about half an hour the line was again formed, the band of the Chasseurs playing "Auld Lang Syne," and proceeded along Sherbrooke, Aylmer and St. Catherine streets to the Cathedral.

PRESENTATION OF TANKARD.

At 7 o'clock p.m., the members of the society dined together according to custom, at the Firemen's Hall, Craig street. After the viands which were gotten up in a manner that reflected great credit on the caterer, were duly discussed, the President, John H. Isaacson, Esq., after making a few happy remarks on the success of the Society proposed the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were drunk with much enthusiasm.

After the toasts had been given according to custom, Mr. J. H. Wilson stepped forward, and, addressing Mr. Bagg, spoke as follows :

" Mr. Stanley Bagg,

Sir.—At a meeting of this Society held in this room on the 2nd of April last, it was unanimously resolved that a subscription be entered into for the purpose of presenting you with a small testimonial as a mark of the esteem in which you are held by the members of this society. A committee was at once elected to carry out these arrangements; and as chairman of that committee, I have been deputed by my colleagues to make the presentation this evening. I do not intend to inflict on you or the members present a long and tedious speech, but 'as brevity is the soul of wit,' I will be as brief as possible. On the origination of this society in 1864, you were one of the first to tender your subscription as an honorary member, and also to tender your advice and influence to promote the cause for which the society was originated. You were unanimously elected as the first President of this society, which office you have continued to hold to this day with credit to yourself and to the satisfaction, I believe, of every member of this now prosperous and great society. To those of us who have had to meet you on matters of business connected with this society, you have always been affable and kind; and those who know you most, know most your worth. At the formation of this society to many who are now members you were personally unknown; but from the interest you have taken in our behalf, your name is now as

familiar in our mouths as household words. In presenting you with this silver tankard, do not suppose that its intrinsic value alone is an estimate of our esteem for you. No, sir; with it we present you with the hearty good wishes of some three hundred English workmen. On your crest which we have had engraved on this tankard, is the motto, 'Remember.' This word is very appropriate, and may it always remind you of the proceedings of this day; and may this testimonial be, through yourself and son, handed down to future generations as 'a cup to cheer but not inebriate.' I will now read the inscription—'Presented to Stanley C. Bagg, Esq., J.P., by the members of the English Workingmen's Benefit Society, as a mark of their high appreciation of the zeal he has displayed as President during the two first years of the Society's existence. May 21, 1866.'

I now, Sir in the name of the members of this English Workingmen's Benefit Society of Montreal, request your acceptance of this silver tankard."

To this address Mr. Bagg responded.

"Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Committee, Fellow Members of the English Workingmen's Benefit Society.

That England expects every man to do his duty, is an undeniable fact; and if I have discharged mine as President of this Society to your satisfaction for a period of more than two years, your approbation of my conduct is in itself a great reward. But the presentation of this elegant Tankard induces me to fear you have over estimated my labors. Believe me, my friends, I am truly grateful for this token of your good-will—this evidence of English gratitude and generosity—for which I tender you my sincere thanks. Permit me now to say a few words about our Club, for I may not have another opportunity to address you. It numbers fully 350 members; its funds at interest are steadily increasing, monthly additions being made thereto, and not one shilling has been withdrawn since the first deposit was made. All it now requires is an act of incorporation; but the present able staff of officers will doubtless attend to that and everything else that will conduce to the prosperity of the institution. Kindred societies in the mother country have recently made some important movements; for instance the Newcastle Working Men's Club have estab-

lished a Library, and the Sunderland Working Men's Club intend purchasing a building for a Club House, which they purpose paying for by issuing £1 shares on the limited liability principle. These examples are worthy of imitation. Before concluding these brief remarks, it may not be amiss to allude to an interesting ceremony which occurred to-day, in which my wife, representing the lady subscribers in general, took a prominent part, I mean the presentation of a pair of noble colors of which you were the recipients: 1st. The Union Jack of that great empire of which it is our boast that we are subjects, and on which the sun never sets. Whenever that flag is unfurled to the winds it proclaims to the world—in Union there is Strength. 2nd, The Red Cross Flag of England. St. George's banner broad and gay. It has shed its mighty influence over many a battle field, Cressy and Poitiers among the rest, and the Crusader inspired, by its presence, made the Crescent pale before it. Constantine the Great, claimed by English antiquaries as a fellow countryman, adopted the standard of the Cross, and was victorious; and from the time of that great Emperor it has marched before conquering hosts, and for a period of more than fifteen hundred years, it has braved the battle and the breeze, and in it you possess the most glorious banner that ever blazed before an earthly Prince. In conclusion, I would say, your many acts of kindness will long be remembered, and although I no longer preside over your Councils, I hope to merit the appellation of the Workingman's Friend.

Gentlemen, again I thank you for this valuable gift, which I trust may be carefully preserved as a precious heirloom by my descendants for many generations."—*Transcript.*

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—We have just seen at the store of R. Hendery & Co., Silversmiths and Jewellers, Place d'Armes, a handsome silver Tankard, manufactured by them from a design of the committee of the English Workingmen's Benefit Society. The design is well calculated to represent the country whose flag has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze. The rose of old England being the most prominent ornament on the chasing and design, it bears the following inscription—"Presented to Stanley C. Bagg, Esq., by the members of the English Workingmen's Benefit Society, as a mark of their high appreciation of the zeal he has displayed as president during the first two year's of

the Society's existence." The inscription is surmounted by Mr. Bagg's crest with the motto, "Remember," which no doubt will be fulfilled by the members of his family with pleasure, that their father was the first President of that benevolent society.—*Telegraph*.

During Mr. Bagg's presidency he also received an elegantly framed portrait and a sterling silver medal.

## REMEMBER.

Impromptu lines written in London (England), by a clergyman in June, 1866, after reading from the *Montreal Transcript* an account of the presentation of a silver tankard (on which was engraved the word "*Remember*"), to Stanley C. Bagg, Esq., by the English Workingmen's Benefit Society of that city.

*Remember* all the tears you dry  
From infant cheek and hoary face,  
By kindling in the human eye  
The hope that gives to life its grace.

*Remember* all the woes you find  
From humble homes and cottage floors,  
By acting as the poor man's friend,  
And chasing want from poor men's doors.

*Remember* how they prize the day,  
To memory's choicest feelings wed,  
Which join'd them to your loyal way—  
They mark it with a letter *red*.

*Remember* how it cheers the wife,  
When sickness lays her husband low—  
To feel that brothers guard his life  
And strive to avert the dreaded blow.

*Remember* how it soothes her pain  
When human skill has failed to save—  
To see them swell the funeral train,  
And cast the laurel o'er his grave.

*Remember* how it soothes her heart,  
Midst clouded hours of bitter grief,  
To find that brothers take her part,  
And kindly give relief.

*Remember* all the good that's done  
And give to God the praise—  
The Father, Spirit and the Son,  
Through everlasting days.

REV. W. SUDDARDS, D.D.